



View from the

Blackdown Hills



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Issue No 108 December 2013

CHRISTMAS IN THE BLACKDOWN HILLS

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Charity founder named as inspirational woman

A PROLIFIC charity fundraiser from Wellington has been honoured as the Daily Mail's Inspirational Woman of the Year after she turned her battle with cancer into an unlikely success story.

Naomi Thomas, 31, received the award at a special ceremony in London last month, in recognition of her work for the Wedding Wishing Well Foundation. The charity, which Mrs Thomas set up in 2010 after being diagnosed with inoperable breast cancer, helps organise weddings for people with terminal or life-limiting illnesses.

As one of the five shortlisted finalists, Mrs Thomas was invited to 10 Downing Street to

by Jack Dixon

have lunch with Samantha Cameron, before a gala dinner and awards ceremony at the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square. She also won a £5,000 luxury break as part of the prize.

She said: "Winning the Inspirational Woman of the Year award has really been incredible, and I still can't quite believe it. Visiting Downing Street was a once in a lifetime experience and I've met some wonderful women who will continue to inspire me as I carry on my work to help terminally ill people arrange their dream wedding."

■ TURN to page 3



■ NAOMI Thomas (centre), who was named the Daily Mail's Inspirational Woman of the Year for her charity work, is pictured with Sharon Flood (left) from the Shelter organisation and Anna Filipopoulos (right) from event sponsors British Gas

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Sunrise over Hemyock



■ **DAVID Bawler** from Hemyock captured this autumn sunrise over the Culm Valley, taken from **Combe Hill, near Hemyock.**

Send us your photos capturing the Blackdowns at its best to lisa@pemedial.co.uk.



■ **CHRISTMAS** carols Photo courtesy of Forestry Commission

Sing carols under the stars at Wellington Monument

THE whole family can get in the Christmas spirit by singing carols under the night sky at a special torch-lit event at Wellington Monument this December.

The outdoor sing-song will take place around a bonfire at the National Trust site near Hemyock at 7.30pm on Friday, December 6th.

The voices of the Blackdown Community Choir and Chard's Meeting Voices Choir will lead everyone through all the festive favourites, as well as performing some special Christmas music.

Smeatharpe WI will also be there, selling mince pies and hot drinks.

The approach to the monument, along the well-known avenue through the woods, will be lit with flaming torches to add a magical start to the evening.

Everyone is invited to wrap up warm and bring lanterns and torches.

Parking is at the Wellington Monument car park, and the organisers are encouraging people to car share as much as possible.

The AONB's information officer Katherine Findlay said: "We'd like to welcome everyone to join us and experience the fun of being in this unique location after dark. There's nothing like music outdoors, and it promises to be a really special start to Christmas."

Carols Under the Stars is organised by The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team and the National Trust as part of the Blackdown Hills Autumn/Winter Countryside Events programme.

To find out more, call 01823 680681.

NEWS briefs

Christmas in Dunkeswell

CHRISTMAS celebrations in Dunkeswell will begin with a children's Christingle service.

The service will be hosted by St Nicholas Church and Dunkeswell Abbey together and will take place at Throgmorton Community Hall at 4pm. Families and children of all ages are invited to attend on Sunday, December 8th.

St Nicholas Church will also be hosting its annual Christmas Tree Festival with trees, wreaths and floral displays in the church from Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th from 11am to 5pm and on Sunday, December 15th from 12noon - 5pm.

A concert will also be held at the church on December 14th at 7.30pm featuring the HMS Heron RN Volunteer Band. Proceeds will be donated to church funds.

A carol service will be held at the church on Friday, December 20th at 7.30pm.

Festive bazaar for hall

A CHRISTMAS bazaar will be held in Dalwood to raise money for the village hall.

The festive event will take place on Saturday, December 7th with a variety of stalls on offer selling Christmas gifts as well as cakes, mulled wine and more.

Father Christmas will also be paying a visit. The event will take place at Dalwood Village Hall from 2pm.

Children have also been invited to go along and make Christmas tree decorations for the big tree, which will be in St Peter's Church.

All glue, glitter, paint and other craft materials will be provided.



View from the Blackdown Hills

is a community newspaper
and welcomes contributions
of news and photos from
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the Blackdown Hills.

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MP to chair broadband meeting

AN online petition to get high speed rural broadband to all villages in Devon and Somerset has gathered momentum with more than 750 people already backing the campaign.

Petition organiser, Graham Long, from Upottery, said he was pleased with the response so far but said they need as much support as they can get.

The petition, which is available to sign online at www.upottery.com, is lobbying Ed Vaizey (Minister for Communications) and Keri Denton (Head of Economy and Enterprise at Devon County Council) to ensure faster fibre optic broadband cabinets are available in all Devon and Somerset villages and not just larger villages and towns, which has currently been proposed

by the Connecting Devon and Somerset Faster Rural Broadband programme in association with BT.

MP for Tiverton and Honiton, Neil Parish, is backing the campaign and has agreed to chair an open meeting in Upottery to which members of the public will be invited to attend. It is also hoped that representatives from Connecting Devon and Somerset are and BT will also attend.

The date of the meeting is yet to be confirmed but will be announced on the Upottery village website www.upottery.com.

Mr Long said: "When we had an issue with the A303/A30 'tarmac highway' through the parish earlier in the year, Mr Parish chaired a productive public meeting which the police and highways authorities

attended. Now that we have a problem with the 'digital highway' through the parish it seemed logical to do the same.

"There is no time deadline for the number of supporters that we gain for the petition, other than we want as many people as possible to support it by the time of the public meeting.

"CDS and BT will, according to their website, be continuing to spend the £53million of public money on rolling out fibre broadband through until the end of 2016 and if they continue to provide only limited information about their plans through until then, and they continue to focus only on larger villages and towns, then in principle, our petition will continue to run until then."

Wedding charity founder is named inspirational woman

FROM PAGE 1

Mrs Thomas's inspirational story began when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009.

A year later, just a few weeks after giving birth to her first child, she was told that the cancer had spread and was no longer curable.

She and her fiancé Graham had been hoping to get married but found they had to reconsider their plans once the cost of treatment began to mount.

But a local wedding planner offered to help and found suppliers who would work for free.

In 2012, Naomi and Graham married and the foundation was set up later that

year to offer the same opportunity to other couples facing terminal illness.

Mrs Thomas added: "Taking home the award is fantastic - the recognition it gives me and my team means a lot as we all invest so much time and energy in the charity.

"I do my job because I love it. Every time I see a happy couple say their vows it makes all of the hours worthwhile."

The award caps an outstanding year in which Mrs Thomas has also won Wedding Ideas magazine's Bride of the Year award as well as being named Real People magazine's Caring Person of the Year.

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■ CHARDSTOCK Fayre chairman Ady Goff (right) with some of the beneficiaries

MORE than 10 beneficiaries got a slice of the £4,300 raised at this year's Chardstock Street Fayre.

A presentation evening was held on last month at The George Inn, Chardstock.

The main beneficiaries were The Friends of St Andrew's Church and The Friends of St Andrew's Primary School, receiving £1,500 and

£1,000 respectively.

Cheques were also presented to Chardstock Park Trust (£500), Chardstock's Christmas Tree and Presents Fund (£250), St John Ambulance Axminster Division (£200), Flamingo Pool Axminster (£150), Chard Boys' Brigade (£150), Karizma Majorettes, Axminster (£100), The Catherine Wells-Burr

Foundation (£100), and Chardstock Newsletter (£50).

In addition, the committee made a last minute donation of £300 to the Philippines Typhoon Appeal.

Chardstock Street Fayre will take a break in 2014 but committee members are already looking for new ideas to return in 2015 better than ever.

New career for 'retired' Peter

WHEN Somerset based Peter Hall reached the age of 80 this year, he could have been expected to sit back and enjoy a quiet life.

Not so, as 2013 sees the publication of his debut novel "Guardians of the Jesus Gene".

The book was recently launched in London, and is already listed on a number of online sites including Amazon, Waterstone's and W H Smith (available as a paperback and as an e-book).

Set in first century Palestine, this is a marvellously rich recreation of the world's first Christians and Nero's Rome; a place of evil and a centre of Satanism. Stepping alive from the pages are Christ's brother, Simon, and Pilate's daughter, Clodia, who are thrown together in the war between Rome and Jerusalem. They have a son, Joshua. The child's inheritance is the genetic link to Jesus, making him the target for Satanic

forces. These are orchestrated at the Roman Emperor Nero's court by a Greek magus and Satanist, who is determined to destroy the child.

The storyline is unique in that it is the only book in the world to feature Simon, a brother of Jesus. Peter has signed a two book contract with London publisher Thames River Press, with the sequel to The Jesus Gene scheduled for publication in 2014.

This is his third career. From the Salford School of Art he became a textile designer with the Groskopf Atelier in Manchester.

Leaving there to follow a career in business, he spent 18 years with the Unilever Group before coming to Somerset as a director of Showers Limited at Shepton Mallet - makers of Babycham.

In 1993 Peter retired to travel, paint and write full-time. Painting took precedence in the first years of



■ AUTHOR Peter Hall

his retirement, with work exhibited at the Royal West of England Academy, solo exhibitions at the Round Tower in Frome, the Great Elm Music Festival, and a major exhibition in Perth, Western Australia.

In 1998 he had work selected by the Winn Devon Art Group of Seattle, USA (one of the world's largest

publishers of fine art) for publication in their catalogue.

Now painting has taken something of a back seat as he concentrates on his writing, already working on his third novel. Peter is keenly interested in antiquity, particularly the history of the Roman Empire, and the history of the development of Christianity.



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Blackdown Hills Transition Group

Building local resilience

“THERE'S been a lot of talk of late about energy and particularly pricing, the term green taxation and how we can produce alternatives to oil.

Who to believe? The big six energy producers blame excessive taxation and increasing wholesale prices for your energy bills increasing.

Ed Milliband and now John Major have introduced the concept of either freezing energy prices or taxing excess energy company profits.

The Government recently awarded the contract for Hinkley Point but at what cost? Perhaps we are still just tinkering around the edges or fiddling while Rome burns?

Isn't the real question, how can we keep the lights on in a sustainable way that doesn't make us over dependent on one source of energy or one set of producers? Sure we need big nation wide improvements but as our individual bills get higher what can the little man do, change suppliers?

The Transition movement are made up of individuals who believe that we need to develop on a number of fronts, better insulation,

solar, hydro and wind power, safer extraction of natural resources, recycling local community led energy initiatives and particularly technology that protects the environment for future generations.

We can't promise lower bills, as we all need to pay for it, but perhaps we can all do our bit to lower our consumption and concentrate on safer renewable sources.

On a lighter note the Transition apple days were a great success with more people than in previous years taking advantage of the bumper apple crop this year to bring their apples for pressing and taking the juice away for pasteurising, freezing or making cider.

Many thanks to all concerned.

Finally on behalf of Blackdown Hills Transition we wish you all a Happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to a New Year of increased focus on getting the basics right in our search for alternative energy.

The next meeting of the Transition Group will be in February details in the January edition.

www.blackdownhillstransition.org.

Jim Rogan, Chair of Blackdown Hills Transition Group

Bishopswood Ladies

MARY Gusterson began the November meeting with a summary of activities during the past month.

Ten ramblers, led by Shirley Prout and Sandie Potts, had walked from Dowlish Wake via Cudworth. The weather was unseasonably kind and the walk ended most enjoyably with tea and cakes at the cider museum. Scrabble is continuing on Monday afternoons and the Bells are taking bookings for Christmas. The skittlers played matches against Smeatharpe WI, Stockland and Dunkeswell, and won all three.

Angie Blackwell, of Cottage Flowers in Ilminster, then demonstrated simple but effective Christmas arrangements. Although Angie achieved wonderful results with professional speed and flair, these were well within the scope of beginners.

They consisted of a wreath for the front door and several smaller arrangements for indoors, primarily for the table. Angie likes to use a variety of natural foliage embellished with occasional artificial flowers or berries.

In contrast to the usual Christmas colours of red and green, she showed more subtle tones, with silvery foliage or variegated greens, and cream candles or flowers.

Everyone agreed that these made a refreshing change, while still looking suitably festive. As she worked Angie passed on hints and tips, as well as entertaining everyone with anecdotes of her life with flowers.

On one occasion she bought up the local Tesco's complete stock of daffodils, being unable to source them elsewhere, and on another cut armfuls of foliage from a sup-

porter's garden, only to be told by the irate next door neighbour that she was actually taking her cuttings from wrong garden. An embarrassing situation which Angie settled with her customary good humour and a gift of flowers.

Thus inspired and amused, members tucked in to copious refreshments provided by Janet Grabham, Rose Gratton, Heather Hodges, helped by Darryl Troy-Brown.

At the December meeting John Crabb will present "Birds in Flight - A Photographic Adventure". Visitors will be very welcome.

Smeatharpe WI

AT the November meeting the president welcomed a full hall of members and visitors. Outings have been proposed for next year to Portsmouth and to see Riverdance.

Next month ladies will be taking numbers for a Sunday lunch party.

The WI will be supplying refreshments for Carols at Wellington Monument, on December 6th.

Lisa Burrows brought her fabulous hats to show members at the recent meeting and told them the history of millenary and how such glorious creations were made.

Various sub groups gave a rundown of their work for local charities and members received several letters of thanks for their support. After all that virtue members will be rewarded with a Christmas party for the December meeting. Plenty of deli-



■ VILLAGERS enjoy Hemyock WI's sausage and mash lunch

cious food and drink and superb entertainment on December 5th. Sue Fergusson and Geraldine Field were joint competition winners. Sue's rose, and Teresa Summerhayes's Dahlia were joint flower of the month.

Hemyock WI

THE president, Lyn Taylor, welcomed members and one visitor to the November meeting.

The secretary, Judith Major, congratulated Lyn and Brenda on making the prize-winning entry for a collage.

This was the group meeting competition held at Halberton. It has been many years since Hemyock won the shield which was on display.

Lyn asked for members to make desserts for the "Sausage and Mash" lunch and several members obliged.

Members who had attended the Diamond Birthday Party at Uplowman had a lovely time as did all those who had gone to the group meeting.

Lyn reminded members that the December meeting would be a "Bring and Share Supper". Cindy would be showing and helping members to make Pyramid Boxes. The competition would be for the "Best Wrapped Xmas Present". This should be to the value of £4 and would go into a sack for a "Secret Santa" distribution.

Lyn then introduced Janet East who had come from Payhembury to tell about her life as a shepherd and how it all came about. Janet was an excellent speaker with many interesting tales to tell. She judged the competition for an animal photo and awarded first place to Judith's beautiful collie. Brenda won the Flower Competition with a late flowering delphinium.

Four days later, Hemyock WI held the Sausage and Mash Lunch in the Parish Hall. It was a great success with Karen cooking "super sausages" from Tim Potter of Wellington for 70 people.

Lyn thanked all the

helpers who had cooked mashed potato, made lovely desserts and served the food. The hall had been prepared with a willing band of volunteers. The profit from the event is being used as a bursary to enable a member to attend a course at the WI's own Denman College.

Clayhidon Friends

CREATIVITY was flowing at the November meeting, as Margaret Brotheridge showed members how to make "pop-up" greetings cards.

Armed with pencils, rulers and scissors, members produced some splendid examples with all the coloured card, pretty stickers and Christmassy motifs which Margaret had provided.

The evening was very well attended and most enjoyable.

Members and our three guests had a chance to chat and admire each other's work. New members are welcome, with details from Anne Langford on 01823 680086.

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Blackdowns clubs and societies

Working our Woodlands

with John Greenshields

WOODLAND and trees make a huge contribution to the landscape and are an integral part of the British countryside.

The conservation of woodland as a landscape feature is often an important objective and may include the preservation of ancient trees within a woodland.

Like the Blackdowns, landscape objectives are often important on a regional scale, were local individual woodlands can have an effect out of all proportion to their size. In areas where it is deemed important to maintain continuity and the canopy of the woodland, it might be necessary to consider alternatives to clear felling.

My advise always is to manage operations within a woodland in stages, mainly to allow wildlife to relocate themselves and maintain the all important canopy cover.

In the past, most of the woodland in the country was managed for timber or fuel production, with the exception of sport.

The old saying "A wood that pays is a wood that stays", is still true today. Many woodlands are today still managed for timber, but increasingly more woodland is being used for leisure, which providing it



■ OVER managed wood

is still managed is fine.

The number one management tool for the woodland owner is thinning, this mimics the natural selection process that occurs within a woodland where species compete for light. Naturally this would be left to rot in an unmanaged wood, whereas in a managed wood this is a resource that can be harvested.

The aim is to remove just enough timber from a stand to allow regeneration but not to much as to allow unwanted ground cover, such as bramble and bracken.

The best way is to try to ensure that the trees with the best form (potential for good timber) are kept for the future, at the same time poor quality trees (poor form) or damaged should be culled. Its not an exact science and even experienced foresters get it wrong, mainly by over thinning because of financial restraints at the time.

Many woodland owners practise management in their woods with the aim of growing the best quality timber that the site will produce, this actually can enhance other values such as biodiversity, landscape and amenity which in turn with a small income can support the woodlands management.

I have always maintained that wood is a renewable resource, and woodlands should be managed to produce timber and wood fuel, and as a general rule when trees reach their maturity, if there is a market, they should be felled, and realise their potential.

May I wish all the people (too many to name) who have helped me over the year and all wonderful woodland owners who have let me into their woods, a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!



■ PICTURED are dog owners from the Blackdown Hills with their canine pals showing off their recent Kennel Club good citizen awards.

The all received either bronze, silver or gold awards after completing various skills and challenges organised by the Bordercombe Dog Training Club at Throgmorton Village Hall in Dunkeswell.

Wyn Leneay from the group said: "The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is the largest dog training programme in the UK. The scheme is open to all dogs, young or old, pedigree or cross-breed, whether Kennel Club registered or not.

"Dog owners of any fitness level or disability can take part too. The scheme is non-competitive and the emphasis is placed on the standard of achievement. There are four levels of courses from Puppy Foundation to Bronze, Silver and Gold. The main aim is to promote responsible dog ownership in the community."

Bordercombe Dog Training Club hold training classes every Thursday in the hall from 10.30am till 11.30am, call 01404 47698 for more information.

Photo by Chris Grady Photography

Spinning a yarn about Culm Valley's heritage

AN appeal has gone out to people in the Blackdown Hills for information about Cullompton's cloth trade heritage.

A project, which was awarded funding from a Heritage Lottery Grant as well as grants from Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council, and

other funding sources, aims to explore the Culm Valley's role in the cloth trade.

The project workers hope to conserve and make accessible the hidden heritage of Cullompton and the Culm Valley and the cloth and clothing trade.

As part of the project re-

searchers are appealing for people who may have any photographs, artefacts or any memories of the weaving and cloth industry in the Culm Valley to get in touch.

If you think you can help contact Project Officer, Penny Bayer at pbayer@midde-von.gov.uk.

Education centre looking for land

AN education support group near Churchstanton are desperately seeking land to rent so they can continue helping students with special educational needs.

The Alternative Education Company (AEC), based at Lower Munty Farm, Churchstanton, was set up three years ago by teachers and college lecturers who are experienced at working with young people with behavioural and social emotional difficulties. They work with them to help further their education and improve their employability skills with the aim of getting them in to college or work.

Alan Tait from the AEC said: "The AEC has been established with the primary focus of making a sustained difference to the life chances and social, emotional and physical well-being of disaffected young people. We offer employability skills and vocational qualifications for young people who have not been engaged in education, employment or training for some time. We enable young people to develop self-awareness, grow in confidence and take on responsibility in order to re-engage with education and training or to seek work."

One of the young people they work with is Cameron from Wellington who has attended the centre for two years on a school link programme. He is doing a level one qualification in motor vehicle maintenance with a view of progressing onto college.

The AEC are appealing to local landowners who might have a spare field where Cameron and other vehicle maintenance students can go and practise their driving skills in a safe environment.

Mr Tait added: "After working on vehicles the youngsters really enjoy learning about driving and manoeuvring off road vehicles in a safe but challenging environment. We are looking for a spare piece of land or a field in the area of the Blackdowns that could be used for this purpose.

"As a social enterprise we work on a not for profit basis but would be able to pay towards the upkeep or rent of a field for approx one to two hours per day, preferably in the afternoon."

He added: "We have really good support from local farmers and would like to thank Jane Lock, Richard and Ray Drew and Richard Blackmoor for their continued support. We also could use a small woodland or perhaps farm tracks for the vehicle manoeuvring and if available all day that would be great. There might be one or two companies on the airfield that might like to be linked with a social enterprise. If anyone feels they can help us, they can contact Gordon Woodall on 07773382004 or myself on 07921087771."



■ CAMERON at the AEC vehicle workshop



SOURCE AND BUY LOCALLY THIS CHRISTMAS
Regular tourism coffee mornings are now running,
please contact us for more details.

HEART OF BUSINESS SUPPORT WORKSHOP
for Women in business or starting a new Business
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- Chat with other local business women
- Meet members of the Heart of Business Support Team

If you would like to take advantage of the free business support opportunities that are on offer through the Heart of Business support programme, you will have the opportunity to register and let us know how we can support you.

Spaces are limited so please pre-book with Val Baker at the BHBA.

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**View from
the Blackdown Hills**

Please remember that the
deadline for advertising copy for our
January 2014 edition is 1pm on
Tuesday December 10th



A successful year for community land trust

THE Upper Culm Community Land Trust have reported a successful year at its recent AGM.

Members heard a report from the trust's chairman Heather Stallard which described the long and time-consuming process involved in securing planning permission for 12 affordable homes at Culmstock Road in Hemyock, now nearing completion.

The development, now officially named Griffin Close, after a former Hemyock GP, features nine two-bedroom homes and three three-bedroom homes.

The Griffin Close development is the first partnership supported by Wessex Community Land Trusts Project and funded by the government's Housing and Communities Agency community-led development grant. It's also the only project of its kind in Mid Devon.

There are eleven others following on from Hemyock, one of which has now started on site. Griffin Close will be the first to be occupied.

The report noted that last winter, following criticism on the validity of the independent housing needs survey carried out on behalf of the two parish councils by the Community Council of Devon, the CLT undertook a second survey.

The original survey highlighted 37 families in need of affordable housing. The second survey initially highlighted more than 30 families in this position and the figure now is 48 local families in housing need.

All the applicants are on the Devon Home Choices register and have been thoroughly vetted as to their eligibility by the Mid Devon District Council.

Many hours were spent with the district council planning and housing teams to thrash out the CLT's priority system for allocating the housing. The allocation system is not the same as the Devon Home Choices one.

All Hemyock and Clayhidon residents with a strong local connection, however low down the housing needs ladder, will take priority over anyone from a neighbouring parish.

This allocation priority scheme which the Upper Culm Community Land Trust achieved is now being used as a template for other CLT affordable housing schemes across Devon and further afield.

Last month the regional manager for Hastoe Housing Association and their Housing Officer for the area visited Hemyock to meet potential tenants. This was to

answer their questions, talk through any queries and give advice as to which banks and building societies would give mortgages for shared equity housing. A total of 24 couples were able to meet with them.

The report also acknowledged the success of the Upper Culm CLT, which has attracted regional, national and even international recognition. During the summer the trust was visited by two members of a CLT from Lincolnshire and a lady from New Zealand researching the possibility of undertaking a similar venture there. The CLT was shortlisted for a National Award earlier in the summer and a few weeks ago were runner-up, missing by just one point, in the Community Council of Devon's Rural Housing Awards for the most effective community group.



Raising pounds for Pudsey

■ PUPILS of Buckland St Marys Primary School dressed up for Children in Need day. The Buckland pupils joined thousands of schoolchildren across the country to raise money for the annual BBC television appeal.

As well as donations from the children a cake sale was held.

They also came to school wearing spots and stripes for a day of learning and fun fundraising activities.

Hemyock stops to remember



■ MORE than 200 people gathered at St Mary's Church, Hemyock for the traditional Remembrance Sunday Service taken by The Reverend John Stone.

The parade through the village was led by the church choir followed by youth uniform groups and members of the public.

At the War Memorial the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph was read by Mr Tim Barton. Wreaths were laid by the parish council, youth organisations and the primary school.

Pictured is the procession through village led by St Mary's Church Choir.

View from the Blackdown Hills

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Giving a special gift this Christmas

■ XMAS GIFTS: The children of Awliscombe Primary School have been working together to deliver some special Christmas gifts this year.

The school donated 58 shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child Appeal, with presents being sent to impoverished children in Ukraine.

The boxes were filled with everyday items and small gifts, and pupils were shown a short film about the charity's work.

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~o~o~

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~o~o~

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LeisureReview

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Choirs perform Remembrance requiems

ON the evening of Remembrance Sunday St Paul's Church Honiton was the venue for a concert of specially relevant music - two Requiem, performed by two local choirs.

Both these Requiem, whilst owing a great deal to the traditional form, are very different to what we usually hear, and indeed different from each other.

Honiton's The Sheldon Singers performed Howard Goodall's Eternal Light, composed in 2008. Goodall wrote this piece in contrast to the familiar religious Requiem, which is a series of prayers for the soul of the departed. This work is intended instead to offer comfort to the living, and consists of English poetry interwoven with the usual Latin words of the Mass.

The Sheldon Singers, under their conductor Julie De' Ath Lancaster, sang beautifully.

Their clear sound complemented the sympathetic organ playing of Alex Davies and their accurate dic-

Review by Val Moran

tion ensured that those in the audience were able to appreciate the poetry, some of which was very familiar, such as "In Flanders Fields", and some less so - the opening section was a poem called "Close Now Thine Eyes", sung with great sweetness and clarity by soprano Moira MacKay, accompanied by the choir.

For this audience member, the highlight was Goodall's new setting for the old familiar "Lead, Kindly Light" - a beautiful melody, full of satisfying harmonies and very sensitively sung by the whole choir.

The final movement is a moving recapitulation of earlier themes, ending with the traditional prayer for everlasting peace and perpetual light, with the voices of the soloists, Glyn Jones, Cor Wijn-gaard and Moira MacKay, weaving above and around the sound of the choir and organ.

After the interval, Wellington's Collegium Singers sang Peter Leech's For the Fallen, under the direction of the composer. This piece was written as a tribute to 40 Commando and the work they have done in Afghanistan, and in memory of the Royal Marines who died there.

This work, which was performed unaccompanied, also uses many of the traditional words of the Mass as well as poetry.

The Collegium Singers gave a polished performance which enabled the audience to fully engage with this unfamiliar and very atmospheric work.

The audience is asked to join in the fifth movement - the old hymn "Abide With Me", with the choir and, at this point, the organ providing more of the wonderful harmonies which this work contains, and including a particularly lovely part for soprano soloist Fiona Moon.

These two choirs succeeded in giving the audience a musically satisfying evening which formed a fitting and dignified end to a day when Honiton joined the rest of the country in remembering the fallen, and those who mourn them.

■ PARENTS and children of all ages attended the half-term family workshop at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, with professional paper artist Jessica Palmer on hand to offer top tips and design ideas.

More than 50 people visited the gallery during the day, making paper cut jewellery including bangles, necklaces, earrings and badges, and their work is now on display in the gallery's learning room.

Mrs Palmer's collages and paper sculptures are made from handmade, recycled and vintage papers, and her work is regularly used on book covers, websites and magazines.



Hands on art

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Membury, Devon £799,950

We are delighted to offer this traditional 16th century detached farm house set in its own gardens and grounds (approaching 10 acres). The property is set within a beautiful part of the Blackdown Hills and includes a detached HOLIDAY COTTAGE. The main house comprises 5 bedrooms, family bathroom, additional shower room, Sitting room, dining room, eat in kitchen, utility area and pantry area. The Lodge comprises 3 bed rooms, family bathroom, sitting room, kitchen / dining room. Fields benefit from hundreds of yards of river bank of the River Yarty. There are numerous outbuildings. Call us on 01823 252 500 to view.



Maidendown, Devon £375,000

A traditional 3 bedroom detached Cottage which is full of original and interesting features. Situated in a quiet, friendly and rural Devon hamlet not far from Culmstock on the Devon/Somerset border and within easy reach of the M5 motorway & Tiverton Parkway mainline station. Gardens approaching ½ acre, linhay garage, studio and workshop with potential to extend (subject to pp) Maidendown benefits from great schooling falling within the Culmstock and Uffculme school catchment areas. Call 01823 252 500 to arrange a viewing.





stags.co.uk
Residential Lettings



LET

Rawridge

4 Bedroom U/F detached well appointed character cottage. 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms. Gardens, parking and garage/workshop. OFCH. Pets/children considered. EPC band E. LET. Web Find: 56811

£1,150 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



LET

Stockland

5 Bedroom U/F stylish and adaptable detached house in the sought after village. Stone outbuilding, double garage. Dogs/children considered. EPC band D. LET. Web Find: 62722

£1,200 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



LET

Angersleigh

4 Bedroom U/F superbly appointed and presented detached barn conversion at the foot hills of the Blackdowns. Garden and garage. EPC Band D. LET. Web Find: 32526

£1,500pcm

Taunton 01823 447355



LET

Bishopswood

4 Bedroom U/F fully refurbished detached stone fronted cottage situated in this pretty Blackdown Hills village. Gardens & garage. O.F.C.H. EPC Band D. LET. Web Find: 59903

£1,495pcm

Taunton 01823 447355



LET

Smithincott

3 Bedroom U/F deceptively spacious character cottage situated in a convenient location close to the popular village of Uffculme. Garden, parking and garage. EPC Band D. LET. Web Find: 33802

£850pcm

Tiverton 01884 232872



LET

Buckland St Mary

1 Bedroom U/F well presented barn conversion in a delightful rural location with stunning views over the Blackdowns Hills. EPC Band F. Suit single person or couple. LET. Web Find: 62229

£525pcm

Taunton 01823 447355

A SAMPLE OF PROPERTIES LET BY STAGS THIS YEAR

We attribute our continuing success to:

- The quality, experience and enthusiasm of our staff.
- The promotion of all our properties on the most important websites.
- The unrivalled marketing and advertising.
- Our network of strategically placed offices in contact with over 4000 prospective tenants.
- Tailored Let Only, Fully Managed, Rent Collection and Rent Guaranteed services.
- We are not as expensive as you may think.

If you are considering a letting or wish to consider a change of managing agent, please call Stags for marketing and management advice.





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The West Country is Stags Country



Hemyock

10 Acres

Equestrian property with garaging, barn, extensive stabling & paddocks. Sitting Room with Dining Area, Conservatory & Office, Dining/Breakfast Room, Kitchen & Utility, 4 Bedrooms & En Suite Shower Room, Bathroom. EPC Band D. Web Find: 61534

Guide Price £899,950

Wellington 01823 662822



Ashill

1.3 Acres

4 Bedroom country house with fine views over its attractive garden, paddock and stream. Lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms (2 en-suite), family bathroom, double garage & workshop. EPC Band F. Web Find: 59062

Guide Price £499,995

Wellington 01823 662822



Sheldon

1.5 Acres

Situated in the village this beautifully presented detached 4 bedroom house has been extensively refurbished throughout. The property also benefits from a superb green oak family room that overlooks the private gardens of 0.5 acre and adjoining paddock of one acre. EPC Band: D Web Find: 63201

Guide Price £495,000

Honiton 01404 45885



Nicholashayne

0.5 Acres

Spacious detached bungalow offering fine views, range of outbuildings & gardens. Hallway, sitting room, dining room, study/box room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility & cloakroom, 3 double beds, and family bathroom EPC Band E. Web Find: 56615

Guide Price £420,000

Wellington 01823 662822



Blackdown Hills

11.9 Acres

Residential smallholding set in a private woodland location with 2/3 bed split level bungalow & detached 2 bed chalet, large garage & workshop. Pond, stream and arboretum. Meadow and woodland. EPC Band D. Web Find: 61843

Guide Price £400,000

Honiton 01404 45885



Smallridge

0.4 Acres

Spacious 3 bedroom cottage in the heart of the village with far reaching views. 2 Reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom & shower. Adjoining outbuilding with potential (etc) and large gardens. EPC Band E. Web Find: 57972

Guide Price £380,000

Honiton 01404 45885



Kentisbeare

A charming village house with pretty gardens, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, sitting room, conservatory and bathroom. Workshop/studio/store and garage. EPC Band F. Web Find: 15274

Guide Price £350,000

Honiton 01404 45885



Clayhidon

A detached 2 bedroom bungalow with PP for first floor conversion with balcony. Superb views, gardens, ample parking & double garage / workshop. EPC Band D. Web Find: 57238

Guide Price £287,500

Wellington 01823 662822

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

For advice and assistance on a variety of issues including:

- Valuations
- Rural Planning and Diversification
- Renewables
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensations
- Landlord and Tenant Matters
- Estate Management
- Agri-Environment Schemes

Contact Mark Neason on 01823 662822